REMARKS

Introduction

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed September 8, 2003, and contains (a) a preliminary amendment, and (b) an election of species. The amendment will be presented first, as the election will therefore be better appreciated.

Claims 1-42 were pending in this application. By this preliminary amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9, 12-14, 18, 19, 23, 36, 38, 39, 41 and 42. Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 43 and 44 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-4, and 6-44 are pending for examination, with claims 1, 6, 10, 16, 26, 30 and 36 being independent claims.

Preliminary Amendment

As indicated on pages 2-5 of this preliminary amendment, the abstract and the written description have been amended to correct minor typographical errors and to clarify the disclosure. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 has been amended for two primary reasons. The first reason is to clarify that each addressing layer of the system includes addressable switch elements of at least two types. The second reason is to clarify with an express recitation that a switching signal applied to an addressing layer of the system is transmitted to all of the switch elements in the addressing layer.

Claim 6 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of previous claim 5, while claim 5 has been cancelled. Claim 6 is directed to a system comprising a plurality of virtual columns, each virtual column including a plurality of serially connected switch elements. As amended, claim 6 is a generic claim covering several embodiments of the invention, as detailed below.

The remaining amended claims were amended to clarify the protection sought by Applicant. Additionally, new claims 43 and 44 have been added to further define Applicant's contribution to the art.

Election of Species

In response to the Office Action mailed September 8, 2003, Applicant herein elects a species of the claims of the original application, as required by the Examiner.

Although Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's speciation, indicated on page 2 of the Office Action, nonetheless, Applicant hereby elects Species A for examination, with partial traversal.

The Office Action indicates that species A corresponds to Figures 2-8. The claims corresponding to Species A include claims 1-25, 36-42, and new claims 43 and 44. However, claims 1-25, 36-42, and 43-44 also cover the embodiments of Figures 9-11, 16-17, and 19-20, which the Examiner suggested as different species. Claim 6, as an example, is considered to be a generic claim covering the embodiments of Figures 2-11, 16-17, and 19-20. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner thus consider Figures 2-11, 16-17, and 19-20 to all describe the embodiments of a single species, and that Species A be broadened to include those Figures. Reconsideration of the species determination is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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